

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 ACDA-19 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01

/180 W

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R 231210Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4574

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7105

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR TS CG UR US

SUBJ: TUNISIAN FONMIN VISIT

1. TUNISIAN FONMIN MASMOUDI ARRIVED KINSHASA AUG 21 FOR OFFICIAL VISIT. LUNCHEd WITH MOBUTU NEXT DAY AND WILL VISIT INTERIOR ZAIRE AUG 23 THROUGH 26 IN COMPANY WITH ZAIRIAN COUNTERPART NGUZA BEFORE RETURNING TUNIS. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF TRIP IS PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS UPCOMING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

2. AT SMALL DINNER AUG 22 IN MASMOUDI'S HONOR GIVEN BY TUNISIAN IBRD RESIDENT REP GUETTA, ATTENDED BY NGUZA, MOBUTU'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER MOKOLO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENCY MOKANA, FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROSS, AND ME, MASMOUDI DELIVERED HIMSELF OF SOME VERY FRANK COMMENTS. HIS REMARKS WILL NOT BE NEWS TO TUNIS OR WASHINGTON BUT FACT THEY ARE BEING EXPRESSED TO TOP ZAIRIANS IS OF INTEREST.

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3. MASMOUDI VEHEMENTLY EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE VERY FOOLISH IN SPENDING THEIR MONEY AND MANPOWER ON ARMAMENTS, WHICH WILL NOT ONLY NOT PERMIT THEM TO GAIN A WAR AGAINST ISRAEL BUT TRAGICALLY BLOCKS THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS URGED SADAT TO DISARM, ESCHEW WAR AND COUNT ON THE WORLD TO BLOCK ANY UNLIKELY ISRAELI ATTACK IN THE SAME FASHION THAT EISENHOWER STOPPED THE WAR AT THE TIME OF SUEZ. HE THEN ADDED THAT IT WAS EVEN MORE FOOLISH FOR UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES NOT LOCATED IN THE TENSE ZONE TO WASTE THEIR MONEY AND ENERGY ON ARMAMENTS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS USELESS PILES OF IRON AND AIRCRAFT THAT COULD SERVE NO PURPOSE. HE ADDED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ACT DECISIVELY, AS IT HAD AT THE TIME OF SUEZ, IN ORDER TO INDUCE THE ISRAELIS TO EXPRESS PERSUASIVELY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE UP THE CONQUERED TERRITORIES. HE SAID THIS MIGHT MAKE THE ARABS LESS EMOTIONAL AND MORE RATIONAL.

4. MASMOUDI SAID THE US IS THE ONLY POWER IN THE WORLD CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND THE ONLY ONE WHICH COULD BE TRUSTED TO DO SO. HE COULD NOT

UNDERSTAND OUR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SOVIET UNION WHEN IT IS APPARENT THEY HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR BASIC AIMS. THEY DO NOT WANT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE SOVIET ABILITY TO DEVELOP A PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE MEDITERRANEAN HAS BEEN A DISASTER. HE ADDED THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS THE SOVIETS HONEST NOW IS THEIR FEAR OF CHINA. HE IS APPALLED AT THE TALK IN CERTAIN QUARTERS OF CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PRESS THAT WE SHOULD REDUCE OUR ARMED FORCES AND ABANDON OUR ROLE OF WORLD LEADERSHIP. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT TUNISIA WAS GOING TO TALK VERY FRANKLY AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

5. NGUZA AND THE OTHER ZAIRIANS LISTENED VERY ATTENTIVELY.
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